News Release

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Program Announcement

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1998--Under Secretary of Agriculture August Schumacher, Jr. today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

long grain whole kernels:	15.18	cents	per	pound
medium grain whole kernels:	12.41	cents	per	pound
short grain whole kernels:	12.31	cents	per	pound
broken kernels:	7.59	cents	per	pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price are zero.

The announced prices and rates are effective today at 3:00 P.M. eastern time. The next price announcement is scheduled for March 24, 1998 at 3:00 P.M. eastern time.

Further program information is available from Gene Rosera, (202) 720-3452, E-mail address Gene_Rosera@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

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NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases and media advisories are available on the World Wide Web at FSA's Home Page: http://www.fsa.usda.gov